

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION

1. SUMMARY. U.S.-ISRAELI STATEMENT EXTENSIVELY BANNERED AND DISCUSSED. LEFTIST PAPERS HIGHLIGHTED REFERENCE IN STATEMENT TO COMMANDO ACTIVITY AND ALSO CARRIED RESISTANCE REPLY. OTHERS DESCRIBED REFERENCE AS IMPLICIT THREAT TO LEBANON. SECRETARY KISSINGER'S PRESS CONFERENCE REMARKS ON PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION IN PEACE TALKS HIGHLIGHTED BY SEVERAL PAPERS AND SUBJECT OF ONE EDITORIAL. END SUMMARY.

2. EDITORIALY, AN NAHAR WROTE: "ABOUT WHAT WAS EXPECTED TOOK PLACE. PRESIDENT NIXON TALKED HEBREW IN ISRAEL AFTER TALKING ARABIC IN EGYPT, SAUDI ARABIA AND SYRIA. JOINT U.S.- ISRAELI STATEMENT ALMOST EXACT COPY OF U.S.- EGYPTIAN STATEMENT, REGARDING NUCLEAR COOPERATION, PROMOTING TOURISM ETC... EXCEPT FOR PARAGRAPH ON PALESTINIANS. HERE THERE IS CONFLICT IN TWO STATEMENTS. WHILE STATEMENT WITH EGYPT COMMITS AMERICA TO FULFILLING INTEREST OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, STATEMENT WITH ISRAEL CONDMENS COMMANDOS, CALLS THEM TERRORISTS AND ADDRESSES APPEAL, IN PRESIDENT NIXON'S NAME, TO ARAB STATES TO STOP

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SUPPORTING THEM...THAT APPEAL MIGHT HAVE NEGATIVE IMPACT IN

ARAB WORLD. REGARDING BEIRUT, APEAL OF U.S. PRESIDENT MAY AROUSE FEARS REGARDING U.S. ASSURANCES TO LEBANON, PARTICULARLY AFTER PRESIDENT NIXON'S LETTER TO LEBANESE PRESIDENT CONCERNING MIDEAST TRIP. HOWEVER, WHAT KISSINGER SAID MAY BE MORE SIGNIFICANT. HE SAID THAT AREA POLARIZATION BETWEEN U.S. AND USSR IS PAST. HE ALSO SAID ISRAEL WILL HAVE TO PAINFULLY REASSESS AREA REALITIES BECAUSE EVEN RADICAL STATES LIKE SYRIA, ACCORDING TO HIM, ARE NOW PREPARED TO ACCEPT A KIND OF ISRAELI EXISTENCE."

3. AS SAFIR;"NIXON HAS HUMILIATED ARAB RULERS. AT EVERY MEETING IN CAIRO, JIDDA AND DAMASCUS, ARAB KINGS AND PRESIDENTS TALKED CLEARLY AND FRANKLY ABOUT PALESTINE PROBLEM. NIXON IGNORED THESE CONVERSATIONS AND REFUSED EVEN TO REFER TO THEM. INSTEAD HE TALKED IN GENERALITIES ABOUT NECESSITY OF ACHIEVING PEACE IN MIDEAST. ARAB LEADERS MUST TAKE FIRM STAND REJECTING NIXON'S ATTITUDE, REJECTING USE OF TERM MERCENARIES AND REJECTING INTERFERENCE IN ARAB AFFAIRS."

4. AL MUHARRIR: "AS NIXON TRAVELLED TO ARAB CAPITALS, HE WORE SEVERAL MASKS. DISGUISE WAS SO ACCURATE THAT IT DECEIVED A SIZABLE NUMBER OF ARAB NATIONALISTS...YESTERDAY, WHEN NIXON FOUND HIMSELF IN OCCUPIED PALESTINE AMONG HIS REAL ALLIES AND FRIENDS, HE REMOVED ALL MASKS...HE NOT ONLY VISITED JERUSALEM, HE ALSO HELD OFFICIAL TALKS WITH ISRAELI OFFICIALS THERE, AND THUS IN PRACTICE RECOGNIZED JERUSALEM AS CAPITAL OF JEWISH STATE... HE ALSO ADOPTED ISRAELI VIEWPOINT THAT ARAB STATES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR COMMANDO ACTION, GIVING ISRAEL GREEN LIGHT TO STRIKE AT LEBANON WHENEVER COMMANDOS STRIKE."

5. PRO-CAIRO AL YOUM: "THREE POINTS SHOULD BE STRESSED: FIRST, U.S. FOR FIRST TIME RECOGNIZED PUBLICLY RIGHTS OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. SECOND, U.S. POLICY STRESSES THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF PEACE IN AREA SHOULD BE THROUGH IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 338. U.S. ACCEPTANCE OF AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION 242 AND ITS REFERENCE TO RIGHTS OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE IS BASIC CHANGE IN FAVOR OF RECENT PNC RESOLUTIONS. THIRD, NIXON'S STRESSES THAT IT IS BETTER FOR ISRAEL TO CHOOSE WAY OF PEACE RATHER THAN WAR. IN THIS, THERE IS CLEAR AMERICAN TREND TO WORK TO SAFEGUARDING LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF ALL PEOPLE IN AREA INCLUDING PALESTINIAN

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PEOPLE. ANOTHER BASIC POINT IS U.S. POLICY DECLARD, FOR FIRST TIME IN IT SHISTORY, IT SACCEPTANCE OF ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN NEGOTIATIONS."

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